

**Amendments to the Specification:**

The paragraph beginning on line 3 of page 9 has been amended as shown:

Figure 5 illustrates a search tree structure of PSCBs in accordance with the present invention. By way of example, a search of the tree in Figure 5 begins with the memory access request of the left or right half of the Root or level 0 Branch Table (BT) based on the Next Bit Test (NBT) result from the Lookup Definition (LUDef) or Direct Table (DT, not shown) entry for this search tree. The access of the first branch table half contains the optimum number of levels of PSCBs of the tree for the search type. If after descending through the first table an external (lower) branch table address is arrived at instead of a leaf address, then an additional memory access request would be made for only the left or right half of this lower branch table. This process continues until a leaf address is arrived at during the ~~decent~~ descent through the lower branch table halves. When the search arrives at a leaf address, the process terminates with a memory access request for the leaf data to determine if a match was found. The leaf structure for the leaves shown in Figure 5 is described more particularly in co-pending U.S. Patent Application, filed 11/22/02 \_\_\_\_\_, serial no. 10/065,826 \_\_\_\_\_ (~~docket no. RPS920020019US1/2492P~~), assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.